



# CAMBRIDGE TODAY AND TOMORROW

**The Policy  
of the Cambridge  
Communist Party**





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# CAMBRIDGE

## TODAY AND TOMORROW

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### INTRODUCTION

**T**HE victorious conclusion of the war against Fascism ushers in a new period in human history. It is a period of great promise if the gigantic problems left by Fascism and war can be solved. But the very immensity of the problems demands far-reaching changes and provides an opportunity for a fresh start in many fields. We have a chance to plan our country's life in such a way that the inequality and degradation, from which many of our people suffered in the past, are eliminated for all time. The great victory of the Labour Party at the General Election shows clearly that the British people are ready and eager for big changes in their way of life in order to build a better Britain.

People realized early in the war that peace would bring great opportunities for reconstruction. That is why so many post-war plans and reports have been issued by both public and private bodies. The Cambridge Communist Party has prepared this booklet as its contribution to the discussions that are going on about the future of our town. We have taken into account the special features of Cambridge which spring from its past, its location and its sources of employment, and have outlined our policy on each of the chief problems facing the community. We hope our views will promote discussion and stimulate democratic activity to make Cambridge worthy of its fame throughout the world.



# CAMBRIDGE—ITS FUTURE

## How Cambridge Grew

CAMBRIDGE is undoubtedly a very old centre of human settlement in England. In Roman times it probably consisted of a fortified camp guarding the river crossing. In the early Middle Ages the town grew up in the river bend between what are now Bridge Street and Mill Lane, with small settlements at Castle Hill, Newnham and Barnwell. The river was a very important means of communication in those days and continued to be so up to the coming of the railway a hundred years ago. In medieval times East Anglia was one of the most populous parts of England, and the attraction of the wool trade brought merchants from all over Europe to the "Fairs" which were held. One of the chief of these was the Stourbridge Fair held on the common which still bears that name. Among the visitors were many monks and wandering scholars, and probably the contacts between these and the local monasteries did much to stimulate the formation of the first scholastic institutions that were followed by the early Colleges and the University. From the beginning there was this separation into two communities of "Town" and "Gown," and between them bitter feuds often raged. In the conditions of these times this separation was inevitable, but even to-day the feelings of hostility have not disappeared and relics of the special privileges of the University still exist.

By the time of Queen Elizabeth Cambridge had grown to be a town of about 5000 people, but because of the University it was a place of greater importance than its population indicated. Owing to the large concentration of scholars in Cambridge it became a centre of the disputes between the Anglicans and the Puritans. It is interesting to note that during the Civil War in the 17th century the town was mainly on the side of Parliament while most of the Colleges supported the Royalist cause and the divine right of King Charles.

At the beginning of the last century the population of Cambridge had reached 9000. After that the town developed as a marketing centre and the University grew in size, with the result that the number of people in 1845 was over 20,000. It was, however, the coming of the railway in that year that began the rapid growth of the town. By 1912, when the borough boundary was extended, the population had grown to 55,000 and building had extended over most of Romsey, Abbey, Chesterton and Newnham Wards. After the last war, more building took place on the outskirts and ribbon building along the main roads became a very marked feature of Cambridge, as of most towns. In the thirties, when the population had exceeded 70,000, the problem of planning the development of the town had become very acute. As a result of the Town and Country Planning Act of 1932, certain land on the outskirts of Cambridge was ear-marked for specific purposes. But this was only a beginning, and in the future local authorities must have both the powers and the will to plan the whole town for the benefit of its citizens.



In this brief view of how the town of Cambridge grew up we can see the outline of its essential character as a town. It is:

- (i) a centre of communications;
- (ii) a market town;
- (iii) the home of a world-famous University;
- (iv) a small centre of specialized industry.

Against this background we shall try to work out the best lines for the growth and development of Cambridge in the future.

## Industry in Cambridge

Industry in Cambridge is on a small scale compared to most British towns. It has developed along two main lines: (1) The scientific instrument and allied industries which arose out of Cambridge's position as a centre of scientific studies, and which now employ 3-4000 workers (over 1000 in the instrument firms and over 2000 in the radio industry); (2) the preserving and canning industry at Histon, which now employs 2-3000 workers. There are also enterprises producing cement, bricks and soap, some small iron works and an old established printing industry, of which the main unit is the Cambridge University Press. Added to these are the usual local industries that all towns of any size support, distributive trades, laundries, building and road and rail transport. Special mention must be made of rail transport, since six branch lines meet a main line from London at or near Cambridge. About 1500 people are employed by the railways at Cambridge, so it is one of the most important sources of employment in the town. The wages and working conditions of many of the railway workers are far from satisfactory, and all Cambridge people should support the efforts of the railway unions to put these matters right. Proposals for improving the existing railway services and station facilities are put forward later on.

The war has brought new factories to the town for the repair of aircraft, and these have employed several thousand workers. However, these cannot be regarded as permanent industries (one of these factories has partly closed down already), and one of the most urgent local problems is to work out a satisfactory future for these enterprises and find jobs for the displaced workers.

## CAMBRIDGE NEEDS INDUSTRIES

The Communist Party believes that there is a need for industrial development on a substantial scale in Cambridge in the post-war years. We think this is necessary in order to bring jobs and prosperity to the town. Although better off than many other towns, Cambridge had a serious unemployment problem before the war. A special feature was the large number of workers living on casual jobs. In the years 1937-8, the percentage of Cambridge workers unemployed varied from about 4% in summer to 10% in winter. Only the establishment of additional industries can prevent a return to this situation and provide work in Cambridge for our men and women in the forces when they come home. We believe, too, that new industries will raise the income of the whole community by providing better paid jobs than the



traditional forms of employment in the town. This will lead in turn to rises in pay in the poorly paid jobs. We believe that this rise in productivity and income in our town is essential if the town is to be able to carry out the improvements it needs in the next few years.

No doubt this proposal for local industrial development will not be well received by many people who think Cambridge should remain an unspoiled University town protected from the crude world outside. We think this view is mistaken. In the first place it is unnatural for a town with nearly 100,000 inhabitants to possess so few productive enterprises. Secondly, we believe Cambridge will be a better cultural centre when it has more industries and factory workers. This will bring our intellectuals into closer contact with the lives and problems of the whole British people, and we believe their contribution to the life and thought of the nation will be greatly enriched as a result.

### IS CAMBRIDGE A SUITABLE CENTRE FOR INDUSTRY?

It is often said that Cambridge is not a suitable centre for industrial development. Let us look at the factors that determine the choice of industrial sites: communications, nearness to markets, supplies of raw materials, power and labour. In the first two of these Cambridge is exceptionally well served. It is one of the key railway centres of the Eastern Counties. It is also close to the great London market, and is directly linked by rail with the London docks and through March and Lincoln with the industrial centres of the north. Apart from its agricultural products and its chalk-marl beds, Cambridge does not possess any important raw materials. However, the day is gone when industry was inseparable from coal mines and ore workings. Nowadays, many industries use a great variety of raw materials, many of them imported, and for such industries, the raw materials on the spot are a minor factor in deciding location. For any large development of industry Cambridge would probably need an extension of its power services, but this would not raise any serious problem. Finally, Cambridge will possess large reserves of labour, judging from pre-war unemployment figures and from the number of workers likely to be unemployed as the local war factories close down. It seems clear to us that there is no natural obstacle to industrial expansion on a considerable scale in Cambridge.

### WHAT KIND OF INDUSTRY DO WE WANT?

It must be stressed that we want any industrial development in Cambridge to be part of a national plan for industry. We do not wish to draw industries away from other regions or to attract industries that are not appropriate to local conditions. It must be remembered, however, that Britain can only enjoy full employment and rising standards of living if new industries are established and there is no reason why a few of these should not come to Cambridge.

There is scope in Cambridge both for expansion of existing industries and the establishment of new ones. It is possible to foresee a big demand for scientific instruments in view of the need to modernize Britain's industrial machine. All the local instrument firms should expand to meet this demand. Moreover, new developments in this industry could arise from this nucleus in the way that the radio industry has developed in the past.



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Another possible development is the establishment of industries based on the town's position as an agricultural centre. During the war big strides have been made in food processing and the Cambridge Low Temperature Research Station has carried out much of the scientific research which led to this advance. Cambridge offers an excellent site for enterprises of this character. If agriculture remains prosperous there should be scope in Cambridge for works engaged in the manufacture or assembly of agricultural machinery or other agricultural products. The Pest Control firm at Harston is developing in this way, manufacturing a number of insecticides and weed-killers and building its own machinery, as well as carrying out contracts for spraying.

Another project which arose some years before the war and which could well be reconsidered was a plan for a locomotive repair shop at Cambridge. Although Cambridge is a big railway centre, all locomotives in this area are sent to Stratford (East London) shops for refitting. This extremely wasteful practice would be done away with if a repair depot were established in Cambridge.

The aircraft repair works in Cambridge (Sebros and Marshalls) present a special problem. Although their adaptation for industrial enterprises of a permanent character might be less economical than building entirely new factories, the Communist Party believes that these factories should be used for productive purposes as long as possible. We disagree with the demand of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England for the immediate demolition of the Madingley Road factory, because we believe the town needs every existing enterprise if there are to be jobs for all in Cambridge. We understand that the Marshalls works will be used for the assembly and repair of road transport vehicles and we see no reason why the Sebros factory could not be used for this purpose as well.

It is also worth pointing out that the building industry will have big tasks in carrying out the building programme for houses, schools and amenities of all sorts, and will employ many Cambridge workers. The same needs should lead to the expansion of the local cement industry.

These suggestions only represent a few obvious lines of development and by no means exhaust the possibilities. Naturally we do not imagine Cambridge ever becoming a site for heavy industry. But we see in our town a suitable centre for certain branches of light industry and especially for those industries which are based on new scientific developments. Such new industries need not spoil the town, provided their location, structure and practices are controlled by the local authority. Modern electrically powered industry is not necessarily unsightly, and there are many ideal sites along the railway east and north of the town, well away from our parks and historic buildings.

The Communist Party regards the development of industry as the most urgent need of the town. It is the key to jobs and security for the people and would broaden the life and outlook of the whole community. We therefore recommend that the Town Council set up an Industrial Development Committee whose task it will be to attract industries to the town and ensure that the claims of Cambridge in this matter are placed before manufacturers and any regional and national planning authorities that exist. We are sure that the majority of Cambridge people would support such a step.



## The University

Cambridge is one of the small number of towns that is known throughout the world for its great University. Through the University, Cambridge has close associations with the lives and work of many of the greatest men of our country. In particular it has become known as the chief centre of fundamental science in Britain and has recently been in the news for its part in the research which has led to the atomic bomb. In normal years the University attracts to Cambridge many distinguished men and women from abroad as well as from other parts of this country. From the University about a third of the people of Cambridge derive their living, either directly or indirectly. Any discussion on the future of Cambridge must, therefore, pay special attention to the position of the University.

### CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY AFTER THE WAR

The Universities have a very important part to play in the post-war life of the nation. It is their task to educate and train the increased numbers of professional and technical people needed, and to investigate fundamental scientific and social problems. This year will see the beginning of the "post-war bulge" in the number of students owing to demobilization, and Cambridge will share in this urgent work. The Government has made financial provision for this by increasing the State grant to the Universities from £2,149,000 to £5,900,000. But there is a serious long-term problem to be tackled. Before the war England and Wales lagged behind some other countries in the proportion of their young people who were getting a University education, as the Table shows:

PERCENTAGE OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN AGE GROUP 19 TO 21 INCLUSIVE

<i>Country</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>%</i>
England and Wales	1936	1·9	France .. ..	1932	4·3
Scotland .. ..	1936	3·8	U.S.A. .. ..	1932	15·0
Pre-Nazi Germany ..	1932	3·9	U.S.S.R. .. ..	1926	5·2

A permanent increase of 50% over our pre-war student population is envisaged but even this would only increase our figure to 3% of the age group. A great increase in the number of students is absolutely essential if we are to maintain our position in the world.

Some leading members of the University take the view that any permanent increase in Cambridge beyond the pre-war number of 5000 students is undesirable. There is a good case for meeting the long-term need in Britain mainly by enlarging the smaller Universities and University Colleges and perhaps by founding new Universities. But this can only be achieved as the outcome of a large-scale plan over a period of years. It is clear that not only must the larger Universities take the biggest share in coping with the immediate increase in the flow of students, but that it is only with their full co-operation that a real growth can be achieved in our Universities as a whole. As our higher education grows to keep pace with the urgent



need, no University will be able to remain static in numbers, even if it has already reached what is considered to be a comfortable size.

It may be true that it is undesirable for a University to become too large, but at Cambridge the Collegiate system provides some elasticity in this respect. Some of the Colleges are quite small and could easily expand with a gain of efficiency. In particular, Fitzwilliam House needs to be enlarged and properly endowed. There is scope, too, for new colleges, for example, for research scientists and scholars. It is also time to end the restriction keeping the number of women students down to 10% of the total and this would probably mean founding new women's Colleges.

Cambridge University is well supplied with libraries, laboratories, lecture rooms and teaching staff compared with most Universities. When the plans to build new chemical laboratories on Lensfield Road and rebuild part of the New Museums Site are put into effect, most scientific departments will be very well housed. In certain Arts departments, however, lack of space is a serious problem. The History Faculty, for example, has no real headquarters. But the main problem for the next few years will be to find well-qualified university teachers and technical assistants, and in the Arts departments this will be the limiting factor. It is clear that Cambridge University is equipped to play a decisive part in meeting the need for higher education. It must meet its responsibilities in this matter, even if this means sacrificing some of the advantages in leisure and living accommodation that both staff and students have previously enjoyed.

## STUDENTS

Along with the increase in the number of University students there must go a widening of the field from which they are recruited. Our University facilities should be enjoyed by the young men and women who are naturally best endowed to take advantage of them.

Formerly, Oxford and Cambridge took their students only from a very small upper class. With the extension of the scholarship system after the war of 1914-1918, students were drawn from less narrow sections of the population, but the position is by no means satisfactory to-day. The problem is a national one and can only be solved by true equality in school education and the provision of maintenance grants for all students.

The change in the class composition of the student body is shown by the beginnings of the movement among the Cambridge students for democratic representation of their point of view on certain governing bodies of the University. It is only at Oxford and Cambridge that there are no Students Representatives' Councils which can press for reforms and improvements in matters which specially concern them. Also the time has come to treat women as full members of the University and award women graduates full degrees and not just "titles of degrees."

## UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE EMPLOYEES

Although a Wages Scale and Grading Scheme was won in 1944 for laboratory assistants through Trade Union action, it cannot be said that Cambridge University is a model employer. A number of experienced technical assistants are still paid only £4 a week, and in at least one large department almost half of the assistants find it



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necessary to work elsewhere after their normal day's work in order to bring their earnings up to the level required for a decent existence. In modern science and industry, the work of the technician is of the highest importance and it is essential that it be made an attractive career with proper training facilities. If this is not done a serious shortage of technical staff will retard teaching and research in the University.

The conditions of work of the majority of College employees are even less satisfactory. Many of these workers receive less than £2 per week and all of them rely on tips for part of their income. Moreover, certain Cambridge families are almost bound to this work by tradition, each succeeding generation entering it in turn. These semi-feudal relations between "gentlemen" and "servants" have no place in the 20th century, and are a barrier to the development of a spirit of equality in our town.

The Trades Union Congress has put forward a demand, which the Communist Party fully supports, for a minimum wage of £4 10s. per week for all workers. Such a minimum wage, along with a satisfactory grading scheme based on experience and length of service for all University and College employees, would greatly improve the living conditions of hundreds of Cambridge families and would make for better relations between the University and the rest of the community. But such an advance can only be achieved if these employees join their fellow workers in the Trade Unions so that their demands can be taken up with the backing of the organized workers' movement. At the same time the Trade Unions in the town must make a special effort to attract these employees to their ranks.

### ADULT EDUCATION

One of the most important activities of modern universities is in the field of adult education. This work brings universities into contact with the everyday lives of the people, and this is as beneficial for the universities as for the people who attend the classes. The Extra Mural Board of the University has contributed a great deal to the development of adult education in the Cambridge area in the past. We feel, however, that this is on a limited scale when one considers the immense resources in personnel and equipment that the University could provide. The Cambridgeshire Technical College, in particular, deserves more assistance from the University in the future.

### POLITICAL PRIVILEGES

The development of proper relations between the University and the town is hindered by the University's special political privileges. Eight out of the fifty-six seats on the Cambridge Borough Council are reserved for University nominees. The Communist Party holds the view that this practice should be discontinued as it encourages the popular belief that the University dominates municipal affairs. There is ample opportunity for University opinion to be represented on the Council through the ordinary Ward elections. In fact several Wards are represented by Councillors who are members of the University, so there would be no question of the town losing the valuable services of such Councillors. The Communist Party is also opposed to the continued existence of University seats in Parliament. We see no reason why University graduates and business men should have two votes.

### CONCLUSION

It is clear that the building of a better Britain will make great calls on our Universities. As one of the greatest of these Cambridge must take the lead in this



immense task. But it can only do this if the University comes closer to the life and needs of the people and if members of the University see themselves as part of the entire community in Cambridge and in our country as a whole. Academic isolation and the separation into two communities, "Town" and "Gown," began in medieval times and have by no means disappeared to-day. But if the best of the young candidates were drawn to the Universities from all the schools of Britain the barrier of isolation would disappear and the standard of our university education would be raised. Unfortunately, these aims can only be achieved after a truly democratic system of school and higher education has been working for a generation. But the adoption of the suggestions made above for improvements in the pay of University employees, for a bigger share in adult education in the locality and for ending the University's political privileges, would improve relations between Town and University immediately. We believe that if the University develops along the lines we have proposed, a fuller and better life will open up for the whole of Cambridge.

## Cambridge as an Agricultural Centre

Cambridge is the only large town in one of Britain's most important agricultural areas. To the north are the fertile fenlands, to the south and east big rolling corn-fields dominate the landscape and adjacent to the town there is an important fruit-growing district.

Even before the war Cambridge was largely an arable county, with wheat, barley, potatoes and sugar beet the main crops. In 1938, one-quarter of the occupied males in the county were engaged in agriculture. In all there were about 8500 regular and 1200 casual workers on the land. There are a few very large farming enterprises in Cambridgeshire, each working several thousand acres. However, it is mainly a county of small and medium farms and small holdings. There are few estates and 40% of the agricultural land is owned by the occupiers. A large part of the remainder is let out to tenants by corporate bodies, especially the County Council (18,648 acres) and the Cambridge Colleges.

Although the war has affected Cambridge less than many other counties, big changes have taken place. 75% of the land was arable before the war and this has been raised to 83% by the ploughing of grass. Extensive drainage and road-building operations have reclaimed derelict areas in Swaffham and Burwell fens and a large acreage has been cleared of bushes in West Cambridgeshire. It will be generally agreed that the War Agricultural Committee, which carried out these projects and farmed several thousand acres, did a good job in directing agriculture in our county to serve the national need. Of course, many farmers found the wartime restrictions irksome and small farmers and smallholders experienced real hardships which they blame on the Committee. It must be admitted, too, that the Committee did not always set an example of efficiency on its own farms. But in spite of these weaknesses, Cambridge farmers and farm workers can be proud of their contribution to the food production campaign. Just how big this contribution was is shown by the fact that in 1943 our county raised enough sugar beet to provide the sugar ration for the whole country for one month.



## CAMBRIDGE TODAY AND TOMORROW

What are the perspectives for agriculture in Cambridge after the war? It is obvious that Cambridge will benefit enormously from any national programme that keeps agriculture prosperous and healthy. This will mean higher incomes for the farm workers and small farmers, two classes that suffered severely before the war. The demand for a minimum wage of £4 10s. per week for the farm workers deserves the support of the whole community as a reasonable wage for a skilled and specialized job. But the workers can secure this wage only if they are strongly organized in their Trade Unions. Less than half of the Cambridgeshire farm workers are members of Trade Unions. The task of raising this proportion is urgent and deserves the attention of the whole Cambridge Labour movement.

The farmers and small-holders have a constant struggle for survival, competing with the efficient big farmers on the one hand and dealing with powerful distributing interests on the other. Even if agriculture remains relatively prosperous, they will not find it easy to make a decent living. Nevertheless, small producers can solve their problems by co-operation. Cambridge already has one example of a successful agricultural co-operative society at Milton, and this could be repeated in other places. The development of machinery pools would solve one of the small farmers' biggest problems, lack of equipment. The authorities must give every encouragement to co-operative ventures of these kinds.

If British agriculture is to keep pace with scientific developments, the facilities for technical training for farmers and farm workers must be greatly increased. The proposed Cambridge Farm Institute will fill a real need in this respect, if it reaches all types of people engaged in agriculture. Cambridge is fortunate in having many specialists in its various agricultural institutes who can play a big part in this work. If all the facilities are used to the full, Cambridge can set an example to the whole country in the application of up-to-date methods in agriculture.

Most people on the land are in favour of planning and some measure of control in post-war agriculture. This means that the War Agricultural Committee will have to continue in some form. Presumably its main task will be to maintain a high proportion of arable land and to ensure that the maximum amount of food for direct human consumption is produced. Fortunately, this is in keeping with the traditional agriculture of our county. During the war, measures of control have been accepted as a necessary wartime evil. It will no longer be enough for the Committee to issue orders, and it will have to take steps to enlist the support of farmers and farm workers. As a first step in winning this support, the Committee should be broadened to include more representatives of farmers and workers organizations, with pay for working time lost so that such members can attend meetings.

Many of these problems can only be solved by the adoption of a national policy of agricultural expansion at Westminster. Fortunately, the new Labour Government is committed to such a policy, and both town and country people must see that this policy is carried out. The Communist Party will support every step in this direction.



# NEEDS OF THE CAMBRIDGE PEOPLE

## Housing

CAMBRIDGE, like most towns, has a housing problem. Although we have lost few houses through enemy action, our population has gone up by about 20,000, and the condition of many houses has deteriorated during the war. The waiting list for Council houses now exceeds 3000, and there are many others who want to buy a house or rent a bigger house than the Council can supply. Still others need a house but have not applied because it seems so hopeless. Somewhere between 3000 and 5000 Cambridge families must be searching for a home.

It is only by serious overcrowding that the present population is housed at all. The provisions of the 1936 Housing Act which limited the number of occupants to 2 per room (babies not included and counting children under 10 as  $\frac{1}{2}$ ) have had to be disregarded. It is common to find small houses in which grandparents, parents and children are all squeezed in together. We have encountered many cases where 6-8 persons inhabit houses with only two bedrooms. Such conditions prevent a normal home life and are bound to have serious effects on the children.

There are about 20,000 houses in Cambridge, covering all grades from wretched to luxurious. We have slums that are an absolute disgrace, especially in a town regarded as one of our country's show-places. There are 44 families living, as an emergency measure, in squalid and bug-ridden houses that were condemned before the war in Gothic, Doric and Park Streets. There are hundreds of other houses due to be condemned in the East Road, Newtown and Castle Hill areas that are almost as bad. There are 5000 other 19th century houses, not yet bad enough to condemn but inadequate by all modern standards of health and comfort, covering large areas of Romsey, Petersfield, St. Matthew's, Abbey and Trumpington Wards. These grade into the slightly better, but drab and uncomfortable houses, built before the last war and found in all parts of the town. Most of the houses mentioned so far lack elementary comforts and amenities; 5000 of them are without baths and probably as many have outside sanitation.

Since 1920, 2683 houses have been built by the Council and 4627 by private enterprise. Most of these newer houses suffer from monotony of design and are not planned for comfort and easy running. Moreover, none of the estates possesses facilities for social life, such as meeting halls, public houses and cinemas, and in most cases there are no shops. In fact they are dormitories, not communities.

This is the situation now. What then are the needs of the Cambridge people and the tasks before their elected representatives?

### NEW HOUSES

Cambridge needs not less than 4-5000 new houses. So far the Council only has permission to build 350 houses on the site prepared in Trumpington. Permission is still needed to prepare the Newmarket Road site. We have been promised 200



temporary houses as well, but the old Government's policy changed so rapidly on this matter that no one knows what to expect. The immediate prospects, therefore, are that Cambridge will get 500 out of the 5000 houses it needs. Real planning by the Council is impossible until there is a definite policy at Westminster and it is there that the main housing problem must be tackled. Now that the Government consists of men and women pledged to place the needs of the people before any landed or business interests, there is hope that long-term planning by local authorities to re-house their people can begin.

### EMERGENCY MEASURES FOR RELIEF OF OVERCROWDING

It is obvious that we cannot leave things as they are until the new houses arrive and that certain emergency steps are necessary. The Communist Party has pressed consistently for the Council to use its powers to take over houses and camps as they become de-requisitioned by the War Office and Government Departments. The need to use these properties for housing must take priority over all other civilian enterprises. One camp offered to the Council was already occupied by Italian prisoners when the officials went to take possession. On no account should houses go to business firms for storage or offices. Many of these large houses could be converted into flats and in Coleridge Ward alone there are seven such houses that could accommodate 21 families in all when they become available.

As long as the shortage exists billeting must continue. The weakness in billeting in the past has been that the main burden has fallen on the already crowded working-class homes and large houses in well-to-do areas have not taken their fair share. Statistics (March, 1945) show that over the town as a whole there is only one more person per house now than before the war. But as most working-class homes have taken in two or more war workers or evacuees, there must be a lot of big houses that have taken none at all.

### NEED FOR CONTROL OF LABOUR, MATERIALS AND LAND

A stricter control of materials and labour is an immediate necessity. It is astonishing how many unessential repair jobs are being done for business firms and big houses in the locality when the Council finds it difficult to do repairs for its tenants. We can cite the case of a house in which, because the bedrooms are uninhabitable and repairs cannot be done, a woman with a collapsed lung, her two children and invalid mother are all living and sleeping in one room. A few hundred yards away a garage has been built on the site of a derelict house and a shop entirely rebuilt.

The big problem from the point of view of any long term housing plan is to acquire the land. The two sites already acquired by the Council will only provide 1000 houses, yet the old Government refused permission to acquire other sites. The Labour Government must tackle the problem of the compulsory acquisition of land immediately in accordance with its election pledges.

### FITTINGS AND DESIGNS

In respect to fittings post-war houses are showing great advances. The innovations in the Portal house exhibited on Parker's Piece should all be incorporated in the new Council houses—the kitchen unit and cupboards, the heating unit, the pram shelter and so on. It is essential that the Council revise its plans to bring estates





1



3



2



4



5

6



## CAMBRIDGE HOUSING CONTRASTS

- (1) A spacious small private estate (Howes Place).
- (2) Well-spaced Council houses with monotonous designs (Akeman St.).
- (3), (4), (5) and (6) Old houses in the vicinity of East Road and Coronation Street.





## HEALTH

- (1) The County Tuberculosis Clinic.
- (2) The Medical (*left*) and Dental (*right*) Clinics at Auckland Road.
- (3) Nurseries like this one at Homerton are a boon to our children's health.
- (4) Old houses like these on New Street & (5) old schools like this (St. Philip's) are major obstacles to good health,



(Ramsey and Muspratt Photo.)



and houses into line with the recommendations in the Ministry of Health's "Housing Manual," in order to avoid drabness and monotony.

### LOCATION AND AMENITIES

The location of new houses in Cambridge is partly dependent on plans for the development of industry in the town. As far as possible, houses should be within short walking distances of their tenants' places of work, that is, mainly in the eastern and northern parts of the town if new factories are built near the railway. At the same time further ribbon development should be avoided. In many respects Cambridge would be well served by a programme of building low rental modern flats in the more central areas as they become cleared of existing slum property.

In planning new estates provision must be made for schools, recreation and shopping facilities. It is true that houses are the first need but space must be reserved so that these amenities can be added later on. The Government has recognized the need for community centres to promote better health, cultural life and neighbourly relations and is prepared to meet a large share of the cost.

### WHAT THE PEOPLE CAN DO

In spite of the excellent work carried out by Dr. Alex. Wood, chairman of the Council's Housing Committee, in acquainting people with the housing situation, it is not easy for people to participate in discussion on the subject. The questionnaire circulated by the Council in 1944 to certain citizens, asking for their views on the kind of houses they want, was a good move, although the effect was spoiled by the warning that improvements cost money and put up rents. In our view the Council's plans should be publicly exhibited at the Guildhall and suggestions invited. (At present they can only be seen by representatives of organizations by appointment.) The Council has the power to co-opt housewives on to the Housing Committee. It has refused to use this power when requested to do so by the Co-operative Women's Guilds. We insist that the Council take this step immediately and ask all organizations to back this sensible demand.

The housing problem cannot be solved by the new Government alone. Continuous democratic pressure on local authorities is necessary to get progressive legislation carried out. This pressure can be exerted through Trade Unions, Guilds and political parties. New organizations can be formed like the Doric and Gothic Streets Tenants Committee, which has got certain repairs carried out on condemned houses and obtained zinc baths from the Council. The Communist Party has helped this work because we know that when people begin to tackle their problems in an organized way, things begin to happen. The most important thing the people can do is to elect Labour and Communist candidates in the Municipal Election so that the new Council will place the needs of the people first and provide the 5000 houses needed in the next few years.

## Health

At the time of writing the announcement has just been made that the Labour Government is repudiating the concessions made to the British Medical Association in the previous Government's plans for the National Health Service. It now seems



likely that the new Health Service will follow the lines of the original White Paper. We shall have to bear this improved situation in mind in discussing the existing health services in Cambridge and the needs for the future.

## HOSPITALS

Cambridge has one voluntary general hospital (Addenbrooke's) and three county hospitals for special purposes: Mill Road Hospital for maternity cases, the Chesterton Infirmary for old people and the Infectious Diseases Hospital.

The present capacity of Addenbrooke's with the wartime annexes in the Leys School and the Examination Hall is 900 beds. In 1943 the hospital dealt with 60% more in-patients than in 1938, and the waiting list has doubled. It is clear that there will be a crisis when the hospital has to return to the pre-war capacity of 300-350 beds. In our view the voluntary hospital type of organization, with its hand to mouth financial policy cannot cope with a problem of this magnitude. The time is ripe for the assumption of public control along the lines recommended in the White Paper. Only the provision of public funds will enable Addenbrooke's to expand into a modern general hospital with a capacity of at least 1000 beds in the shortest possible time. In the meantime, while the voluntary hospital system still remains it should be governed more democratically, with more facilities for representation from the subscribers and the Trade Unions and other organizations which contribute to its funds.

The Mill Road County Hospital has been enlarged in recent years and it caters mainly for maternity cases, dealing with 1000 babies in 1944. Even so it is not adequate and several women's organizations have asked the County and Town Councils for a new maternity block with a special ward for women's diseases, and ante- and post-natal clinics. In our view it would fit the needs of Cambridge more closely to have a maternity block at the Chesterton as well as the Mill Road Hospital. A special ward and staff for the care of premature babies would also improve the facilities. We suggest, too, that a Convalescent Home for mothers after their confinement could be set up in a large house. There should be facilities for the care of any other children during the mother's confinement and convalescence.

We have space only to mention briefly the facilities for the treatment of mental disorders and tuberculosis. There is a general complaint that there is insufficient discrimination at the County Asylum at Fulbourn between nervous breakdown and lunacy cases. In respect to the treatment of advanced cases of tuberculosis Cambridge is fortunate in having available the unique occupational sanatorium at Papworth. The country needs more such settlements, preferably run as public services, to give other places similar facilities and relieve the pressure on Papworth.

Finally, a word is necessary about the wages and conditions of the hospital staffs. The County Hospitals have adopted the provisions of the Rushcliffe Report for nurses' wages and hours, but Addenbrooke's have only applied the provisions on wages. The Hetherington Report's provisions for hospital domestics has now been adopted. Even so, this is only a beginning and our hospitals will continue to be badly staffed until nurses and all hospital workers organize to obtain proper wages and conditions of work.



## CLINICS

Cambridge is well supplied with clinics in comparison with most British towns, and our local authorities deserve to be commended for their progressive policy in this respect. The two Ante-Natal Clinics and eight Infant Welfare Centres and the Child Guidance and Speech Clinics provide excellent services. There is a modern, well-equipped Dental Clinic for children, adolescents and expectant and nursing mothers. The Communist Party would like to see similar dental facilities available for the whole population. One schools Medical Clinic in Coleridge Road is quite modern, but the other in Auckland Road is housed in an old building which will have to be replaced as soon as possible. Both these Clinics provide artificial sunlight treatment. Cambridge can be proud of its County Tuberculosis Clinic at the Shire Hall. We understand, however, that the lack of an appointment system here places a great strain upon the patients.

It is possible to envisage other fields in which clinical facilities should be provided in Cambridge. A Borough Foot Clinic would fill a real gap in the existing services. Clinics for the treatment of rheumatism, providing hydrotherapy, electric therapy, massage, etc., are perhaps the most urgent need of all as rheumatic complaints are particularly widespread in Cambridge.

Linked with the problem of municipal clinics is the provision of medical facilities in the factories. At present, rest rooms, sick rooms and nursing staff are all provided and the need now is for more facilities to keep the workers in good health. We have in mind especially sunlight treatment, "mass radiography" (already carried out once in Pye's) and regular medical examinations.

## PUBLIC BATHS

Cambridge has only one set of Public Baths to cater for the needs of the people living in the 5000 houses without baths. The long waits for baths at busy times testify to the need to extend this service as a necessary step in raising the health of the community.

## A HEALTH CENTRE FOR CAMBRIDGE

The Coalition Government's White Paper on Health recommended the gradual establishment of Health Centres throughout the country. The Peckham Health Centre, the pioneer in this field, provides a complete medical service under one roof, and has led to a big improvement in the health of the people in that district. Its great merit is that it does not confine itself to treating the sick but also provides facilities for keeping people in good health. The Communist Party is pressing for the application of this recommendation which is strongly opposed by the British Medical Association. We believe such a centre would fill a real need in Cambridge and should be high on the list of the Council's future projects.

Finally, health is not simply a question of doctors, hospitals and clinics. It is bound up with jobs, security, good houses, good schools and facilities for healthy recreation. In fact, health is the best test of the condition of a community in every respect. The Communist Party will support every measure that will improve the health of the people of Cambridge and will oppose any group who resist such measures to safeguard their own propertied or professional interests.



## Education in Cambridge

### THE NEW EDUCATION ACT

The Education Act of 1944 provides more equality in education than we have known previously in England. The Act requires local authorities to provide primary education for every child from 2 to 11 (compulsory from 5 years) and universal free secondary education from 11 to 15 years. The present senior and secondary schools are to be reorganized as Modern, Technical and Grammar Schools and the pupils are to be selected for each of these on the basis of tests and teachers' reports. The Act provides for the school-leaving age to be raised to 16 "as soon as possible" and for further education in Young People's Colleges. It also provides for the school buildings to be raised to adequate standards which will ensure efficiency and health.

The Communist Party welcomes the advance that the Education Act represents and we support its main provisions. Nevertheless, it has a number of weaknesses. In our view the plan to set up three types of secondary school is very likely to perpetuate the existing inequalities in secondary education. We think it incorrect to sort out children for different schools, and consequently for different walks of life, at the age of 11 when they are still receiving their general education and it is difficult to assess which type of school will best suit their needs and abilities. Bearing in mind obvious practical difficulties, which could be overcome, we favour a single type of secondary school, the "multilateral" school, providing general secondary education but with additional departments catering for the special needs of children with different kinds of ability. Keeping the children under one roof in this way is important if the inequalities are to be broken down. An even bigger barrier to true equality in education is the continued existence of the public and fee paying schools which cater only for a privileged minority. We regard it as a most serious weakness of the Act that these schools are left relatively undisturbed.

Bearing these points in mind, let us consider how the Education Act will apply to Cambridge and what additional steps will be needed to ensure a high standard of education in our town.

### PRIMARY EDUCATION

It is good that nursery schools are to become a permanent feature of British life. In Cambridge we have two modern nursery schools attached to the Sedley Taylor and the Shirley Schools. Before the war, several infants' schools had nursery classes attached, but these were discontinued owing to lack of space and staff shortage. It is the recommendation of the Nursery Schools Association that these classes should be reinstituted, and they should in fact be an essential part of the primary schools. These nursery schools, supplemented by day nurseries for younger children, which must be continued and improved, will be a great boon to all working mothers and housewives.

Eight of the twenty-one Primary Schools in Cambridge are controlled by the Council and in general they are well housed and equipped. The remaining thirteen Primary Schools belong to the churches and with one or two exceptions the buildings fall far short of the standards required by the new Act. There must be no delay in





## EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

- (1) Brunswick Primary (Council) School.
- (2) St. Matthew's Primary (Church) School.
- (3) The facilities at the Homerton Nursery set a good example for the new nursery schools.
- (4) Coleridge Senior (Council) School.

(Ramsey and Macpratt Photo.)





1



2



3



4



5

## TOWN PLANNING AND AMENITIES

- (1) The Petty Cury bottleneck.
- (2) Commercial and residential street (Fitzroy) in the jumbled area near East Road.
- (3) Passengers queue in the open at Drummer St.
- (4) Christ's Pieces with bandstand.
- (5) The paddling pool at Coe Fen.
- (6) The East Road Public Library.





modernising these schools to conform with the Ministry's regulations. If the churches are unable or unwilling to meet their share of costs they must surrender control.

There is also a need in Primary Schools for clerical assistance to deal with school meals, national savings, and other matters which are at present a great burden on the teachers. More important still is the problem of size of classes, rarely less than 30, and often between 50 and 60 in the existing Primary Schools. Until buildings and teachers are provided on a scale which will bring the size of class down to that which grammar schools feel is enough for one teacher, i.e., well under 30, no real advance in the quality of education is possible.

## SECONDARY EDUCATION

Cambridge at present possesses three senior schools (Coleridge, Chesterton and St. George's), the Central School and the County Boys' and Girls' Schools, which are shared with all the rural areas. The new Act promises secondary education for all, but in Cambridge this will simply mean that the senior and central boys and girls will go to the same schools, be taught in the same classes by the same teachers, only the school will be called "secondary modern" instead of "senior" or "central." It is in this respect that the Act will fail to introduce any real equality. It is true that fees at the County Schools will be abolished, but as there will be no increase in the number of places available, the situation will not be greatly altered.

A building programme to increase the accommodation by at least one-third will be necessary to cope with the increased number of pupils when the school-leaving age is raised to 16. In addition there is the problem of reducing the size of classes, which at present usually exceed 35, and this will make necessary a total increase of at least 50% in accommodation. Therefore, we need to extend our secondary school buildings, and of course, increase the number of teachers as well, to obtain the best results.

The Act will not alter the position of Public Schools, like the Leys, and fee-paying schools like the Perse. The Perse School receives a direct grant from the Ministry of Education. Yet because it charges fees and has many other expenses, it is effectively closed to many children. The Communist Party believes that all public and fee-paying schools receiving Treasury grants should be made free and open to children of all classes. Otherwise no real equality in secondary education can exist.

## TECHNICAL EDUCATION

The Technical College is little affected by the new Act so far, except that fees in the Day Trade School (which takes pupils from several neighbouring counties as well as from all parts of Cambridgeshire) have been abolished. There is at present a demand for technical education, in particular for apprentices and laboratory assistants, which cannot be met by the present accommodation, equipment and staff. If Cambridge develops industrially (this is dealt with fully in the section on Industry) there will be additional demands which must be met in order to supply the necessary skilled man-power.



## FURTHER AND ADULT EDUCATION

Young People's Colleges, modelled on the Rugby Day Continuation School, are proposed in the Act to enable young workers up to the age of 18 to continue their studies for one working day per week. This is an excellent step and no time must be lost in implementing this scheme in Cambridge.

We suggest that these continuation schools should be closely linked with adult education. The buildings which house the Young People's Colleges could also be used as evening institutes for adults with separate club facilities for young people. Finance need be no obstacle to the local authority in making provision for adult education on a big scale as the Ministry of Education offers generous grants for this purpose. Of course, existing organizations for adult education, such as the Extra-Mural Board of the University and the Workers' Educational Association must play a part in the scheme, and the co-operation of the voluntary youth organizations would be very valuable.

## THE TEACHERS

If the Education Act is to be operated at all there must be a big increase in the number of teachers. In the past the training of teachers has taken at least two years. It is now proposed to introduce emergency training of short duration to meet the immediate needs. This will have serious effects on the quality of instruction unless provision is made for additional training later on when the situation becomes easier. Moreover, if the most competent people are to be recruited to the teaching profession, an all-round improvement of salaries is essential. Otherwise, the profession will tend to recruit men and women who tried and failed to obtain posts in more lucrative fields.

## ADMINISTRATION

There has been much discussion in Cambridge about relations between County and Borough authorities in operating the new Education Act. Although the Act provides that in general the County authorities should be responsible for education, Cambridge has been excepted from this rule, and the Borough will have the power to prepare its own plans and then submit them to the Ministry through the Cambridge Education Committee. Rightly used this new opportunity for co-ordinated action can mean a sound, well planned and progressive education policy, and the people must see that the opportunity is grasped.

# Recreation and Culture

## PHYSICAL RECREATION

Sports facilities in Cambridge are probably above the average, thanks to our many open spaces. Although the best grounds belong to the University and College Clubs, most games can be played on one or other of the main commons. However, we do not possess a first class sports ground for big events and displays in the town. But Cambridge particularly needs more children's playgrounds to cater for the crowded working class areas and estates where the children have to play in the streets.



Our bathing facilities consist of the open-air pools on Jesus Green and Coldham's Common and the riverside bathing site at Coe Fen. There is a widespread demand, which we support, for an indoor swimming bath in order that Cambridge may enjoy bathing all the year round.

The river provides the main centre for outdoor recreation in the summer and its natural beauty should be safeguarded. The boating facilities have now become a virtual monopoly and are a good example of private enterprise run riot. The prohibitive charges put our boats beyond the reach of the majority of citizens. In our view, the Council should acquire the boating facilities without delay and by reducing the charges make them available to the working people who are most in need of outdoor recreation.

### THEATRE AND MUSIC

In the cultural field Cambridge is not advanced when one considers the activities it should support as a University town. The opening of the Arts Theatre in 1936 marked a great turning point and it has done a fine service in bringing good theatre and music to Cambridge since that time. But the Arts reaches mainly University circles and its 600 odd seats accommodate only a fraction of the people who would like to attend its performances. There is no doubt that Cambridge could support another first class theatre and there is a clear field here for municipal or co-operative enterprise.

The war has seen a big rise in the demand for good music in Cambridge, a demand that the Wartime Concerts and other series have done much to satisfy. We hope there will be no slackening in these activities in peace time and recommend that the Borough Entertainments Committee enter the field in the future by sponsoring concerts by leading orchestras and artists and building up the Municipal Orchestra as a semi-professional body like similar orchestras in other towns. But the problem is bound up with the need for a bigger auditorium than the existing Guildhall, which is at present booked up months in advance. We shall press for the plans for a Municipal Assembly and Concert Hall, for meetings and conferences as well as concerts, to be carried out without unnecessary delay.

### CINEMAS

In our view it is unfortunate that six of the nine cinemas in Cambridge are controlled by a single combine. This is a situation that the people and the Council must watch closely. If it appears necessary, steps must be taken to ensure that all good films come to Cambridge and that times and places of showing are arranged to suit the public and not dictated solely by the financial return.

### PUBLIC LIBRARIES

The existing Public Library and its branches do little credit to a University town. The Library staff do remarkably good work under the circumstances, but their service to the community would be made much more effective if there were a properly planned Central Public Library with good branches in all the main outlying parts of the town. These libraries should be centres for active work in the field of adult education and not just lending libraries and reading rooms and could be linked with the Community Centres and Young People's Colleges.



## Public Services and Transport

### THE RAILWAY

There is room for big improvements in the existing railway and bus services in Cambridge before they really meet the needs of the community. The railway station is both inconvenient of access for a large part of the town and unsatisfactory in layout. The single through platform causes a great deal of unnecessary delay. A second platform should be built on the existing carriage sidings (these could be transferred to the new sidings near Long Road) with bridges or tunnels connecting it with the main station. Another cause of delays is the bottleneck at the Hills Road bridge. This bridge needs an additional arch to allow four lines for through traffic instead of two as at present.

Access to the station from Mill Road and Cherry Hinton Road should be provided without delay, at least for pedestrians and cyclists. This could be accomplished if a subway were built under the sidings from a footpath or roadway linking Rustat Road with Charles Street. Undoubtedly there are other ways of solving the difficulties of the Cambridge Station, which apply to goods traffic and locomotive shops as well as to passenger traffic, and we have only tried to put forward the simplest possible plan to overcome the main defects. We hope the final plan adopted will be even bolder than the one we have outlined.

### THE BUS SERVICES

The Cambridge town bus service is operated by the Eastern Counties Omnibus Company. Even before the war when there was no shortage of buses and labour, the service was unsatisfactory. In our view the Council should acquire the bus service within the Borough boundary at its present value, so that it may be run entirely for the convenience and benefit of the citizens. This would have a good effect on the attitude of the employees, who would feel a responsibility to the public as employees of the Corporation which they never feel as employees of a private profit-making enterprise.

We only have space to deal briefly with routes of Cambridge buses. It is absurd that only one bus transports passengers to the railway station. We suggest as a temporary measure that buses on the Hills Road and Cherry Hinton Road routes call at the station on their way to and from the town. Perhaps it will be possible to include in the plans for the station a direct road approach from the Hills Road bridge, although this would necessitate changes in the railway lines serving the present coal yard. There is also a need for a bus to the station serving Petersfield, St. Matthew's and Abbey Wards. In general it can be said of the Cambridge bus services that the well-to-do areas are better supplied with buses in proportion to their population than the crowded working-class districts. This is the natural outcome of a service run to produce profits and not solely to serve the people.

Cambridge also needs a larger and better equipped central bus station to cope with the numerous services to the surrounding villages and nearby towns. This is a necessity if these services are to be extended, as they must be, in the future. The



## CAMBRIDGE TODAY AND TOMORROW

bus station must have a good approach to all main roads so that buses can avoid the crowded streets in the centre of the town, and it should be equipped with a restaurant and waiting rooms.

### TAXIS

We believe Cambridge would be better served by a municipal taxi service than by the existing private firms. Fares could be reduced a good deal without any danger of operating at a loss and this would enable a much wider circle of people to use the taxis. It would also mean better conditions for the drivers, and need not compete with existing owner-drivers' enterprise.

### GAS, WATER AND ELECTRICITY

In most towns of any size the chief supply services—gas, water and electricity—are municipally owned and their revenues help to pay for social services. In Cambridge these essential services are still privately owned. The Communist Party believes that these supply companies should have been taken over long ago to be run as real public services. The Gas Company was started in 1834 and the Water Company in 1853, and prominent members of the University sit on the Boards of Directors. The Electricity Company was registered in 1892, but it is now a subsidiary of the big Edmundson's combine which spreads its tentacles over most of Southern England. This year the Borough Council has the opportunity which occurs every ten years to acquire the Electricity Company. It will be failing in its duty to the town if it does not take advantage of its option on this occasion.

Some information on the profits of these firms is available and is given in the table below. It is clear that the alarmed attacks on nationalization which are a recurring feature of the annual general meetings of such companies arise from the

<i>Company</i>	<i>Approx. issued capital</i>	<i>Dividends</i>
Cambridge University & Town Waterworks.	£250,000	10% and 7% on corresponding shares from 1938 to 1943.
Cambridge University & Town Gas Light.	£250,000	10%, 7% and 5% on corresponding shares each year since 1900.
Cambridge Electricity Supply	£500,000	7% each year 1936 to 1942

desire of the shareholders to hang on to this reliable source of unearned income. As this income comes from the need of all citizens for gas, water and electricity it is highly desirable that it should be returned to the municipality to help in providing the other facilities needed which do not directly produce income. It should also be possible to keep costs lower than under the system of private ownership where the first duty of the managing director is to see that the preference shareholders get the maximum possible dividend. Moreover, taking this step would make it possible to deal with a number of other problems, such as the replacement of our antiquated and inefficient gas-lighting on the streets.



## MUNICIPAL RESTAURANTS

The Communist Party will press for the continuation of the British Restaurants and the Cafeteria at the Corn Exchange which are operated by the Council. Both these wartime developments have won an important place in the lives of the people, giving the housewives a much-needed break and solving the problem of the midday meal for many workers. In our view they are an outstanding example of the superiority of public enterprise in meeting the needs of the people. As the food and labour situation improves these restaurants will be able to do their jobs much better and they can become one of the most valued services provided by the local authority.

## The Need for a Cambridge Plan

The improvements we have suggested can only be carried out if they are co-ordinated in a general plan for the development of Cambridge. Land must be set aside for housing, industry and public buildings. Other land must be preserved for parks, sports grounds, farms and allotments. Existing plans worked out as a result of the Town and Country Planning Act of 1932 covered this field to some extent, but they are limited in scope and do not include the built-up areas of the town. Whole areas of slum property, especially in St. Matthew's Ward near East Road and in the Newtown part of Trumpington Ward, need to be demolished and rebuilt on a new street plan. Steps must be taken now to prevent the piecemeal and unplanned development of these areas. Except for certain University and College buildings, the main streets in the centre of Cambridge are far from handsome and very inconvenient for traffic. They need to be replanned and rebuilt on thoroughly modern lines like the improved parts of Sidney and Bridge Streets. No doubt certain plans exist for these projects. But we believe the Council should draw up a comprehensive plan covering the next 20 years. This plan should be publicly exhibited and discussed so that practical suggestions from the citizens can be considered. This would be the best way of developing civic pride and drawing the people of Cambridge into the tasks of rebuilding our town.

## Where will the Money Come From ?

Whenever improvements are suggested, someone always says: "Where will the money come from?" Usually it is the people who have no difficulty in finding money for their own personal comforts who are loudest in raising this cry. But the question must be answered because it confuses many people.

There is no doubt that our local authorities cannot finance the projects we have outlined without having larger funds at their disposal. The Communist Party and many other bodies favour the drastic overhaul of local government finance, with bigger Government grants, better borrowing facilities and the elimination of the gross inequalities in rates in different towns. In connection with rates we believe that the drastic reduction of rates on industrial premises which took place in 1931 should now be reconsidered.



## CAMBRIDGE TODAY AND TOMORROW

In our view borrowing should provide the money for housing and the purchase of public services. These will be permanent assets from which a steady return will come back to the municipality in rents, fares and other charges to pay the interest on the loans. We should like to draw attention to the Communist Party's proposal for a National Housing Loan, to be run like a War Loan, in order to finance the enormous housing programme from a central fund. Rates and Government grants together will only have to cope with the running expenses and pay for the expansion of social services. How much will come from the Government and how much from the rates will depend on the generosity of the Government, but the Labour Government is likely to be more sympathetic in this respect than its predecessor. We are not in favour of raising rates if it can be avoided. But we are against keeping rates down if in order to do so it is necessary to cut down essential services which a civilized community should provide for its citizens. In deciding rating policy as in everything else, the needs of the people must come first.

There is another way of looking at this problem. In our view the question that should be asked is not whether we have the money for these improvements but whether we have the people to carry them out. There is not one of our proposals that cannot be put into effect if the skilled hands and brains of our working people are put to work on the job. It will require planning and organization, and perhaps it may be necessary to tread on the toes of certain people who put their own private interests before the good of the whole community. But we believe that we have both the resources and the people to do these jobs, and that difficulties over finance should not be allowed to stand in the way. The war has been a great lesson in this respect. We have seen that financial difficulties, which were the excuse for not carrying out many badly needed projects in the past, are in fact of secondary importance when the need is great enough. We know now that a war effort of £15 millions per day can be financed when it is a question of defeating an enemy State. Surely we can finance the struggle against poverty, ill-health, privilege and ignorance in the same way and on the same scale.



# THE WAY TO A BETTER CAMBRIDGE

IN this pamphlet we have tried to show Cambridge as it is and as it might be. We have discussed the future of our town as an agricultural centre, as a University town and as a centre of specialized light industry. We have also discussed the needs of the Cambridge people in housing, health, education and public services, and have put forward proposals for meeting these needs. But it is not enough to outline a plan. It is necessary also to show how the plan can be realized.

First of all, we should like to stress that this is a democratic programme. All these improvements can be achieved if the people make full use of their democratic rights. The war against Fascism has led to a great revival in British democracy, and this makes possible great social advances that would have been unheard of before the war. By electing the Labour Government the people have shown that they are eager to seize this opportunity for democratic social change. It is good that Cambridge has reflected this democratic spirit by electing its first Labour members to Parliament, Major Symonds and Alderman Stubbs. This is a great step forward for our town to have M.P.'s who represent the ordinary people and will look after their interests.

Most of the problems we have been discussing come within the sphere of our local authorities, the Borough Council and the County Council (*see* Chart). It is true to say that the future of our town will depend very largely on the composition of these authorities. In the past only ratepayers could vote in local government elections, but from now on the Parliamentary register will apply. This is a great democratic reform and is certain to lead to the election of more progressive local Councils.

In November, 1945, sixteen new members will be elected to the Borough Council. There will be at least one Communist candidate asking for support for the policy outlined in this pamphlet. There will be Labour candidates in most wards fighting for a similar programme. If the retiring Conservatives, who represent business and property, are replaced by Labour and Communist Councillors, the homes, schools, health centres and other public services we need will be brought much nearer. At the elections in the following years the number of progressive Councillors must be increased still more until they secure a majority of seats on the Council. Only then can we be sure that our Borough Council will carry out policies in the interests of the people as a whole.

In March there will also be elections for the County Council. In the past this body has been very largely composed of people from the so-called upper classes. It is time that more working men and women gained seats on the County Council, especially as its importance has been increased by the Education Act of 1944.

So far we have outlined only what the people can do as electors to improve our town. But democracy does not begin and end with the casting of a vote. It is necessary to exert constant pressure on all elected representatives to ensure that they do what their electors want them to do. The democratic organizations of the people must pay as much attention to this kind of activity as to the actual election contests.



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHART

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

14 Aldermen	{	12 from Wards of Town	{	6 Labour
		2 from University		15 Conservatives
42 Councillors	{	36 from Wards of Town		15 Independents, etc.
		6 from University		

*Main Committees*

Education	Finance	Public Health
Housing	Entertainments	Markets
Allotments	Commons	Library
Plans	Sewage	Watch
Maternity and Child Welfare	General Purposes	Public Works and Town Plan

## COUNTY COUNCIL

17 Aldermen	{	24 from Wards of Town
51 Councillors		27 from rural districts

*Main Committees*

Agricultural	Education	General Purposes
Finance	Medical Officers	Public Assistance
Maternity and Child Welfare	Public Health and Housing	Roads and Bridges

What are the main democratic organizations of the people and how can they be strengthened? First, there are the Trade Unions, those great associations of people who work by hand and brain. With their 7,000,000 members, the Trade Unions are a powerful instrument in securing the needs of the people. But they are only effective if they can speak for the vast majority of the workers. In Cambridge there are about 8,000 trade unionists out of about 20-30,000 workers. There is obviously a big job to be done in recruiting new members to the unions in Cambridge before they can play the part they should in local affairs.

Secondly, there is the great Co-operative movement, which has over 31,000 members in the Cambridge area. Although the Co-operative Society is organized mainly to save for its members the profits taken by private distributors in other shops, it is an important factor in the democratic life of our country. By its very nature it represents the many against the few and shows what can be achieved when people band themselves together for their common good. In our view, the main need of the Cambridge Society is for more members to take part in its democratic life, in the Women's Guilds, in the Co-operative Party, and in the Quarterly Meetings of the Society itself. Only in this way can the weaknesses of our Co-operative Society be overcome and its great resources thrown fully on the side of the progressive forces in our town.

Thirdly, there is the Labour Party, the first great party of the working people. The Cambridge Labour Party is joined with a Trades Council composed of representatives from the Trade Union branches. It can be regarded as a kind of local workers' Parliament with the backing of several thousand Cambridge people. This body is



one of the most effective democratic weapons the Cambridge people possess, and it can play a decisive part through its electoral and industrial activities, to change our town for the better.

Finally, a few words about the Communist Party, which has produced this pamphlet. Our Party is an integral part of the democratic movement; we think it is the spearhead of that movement. We have no desire to capture or replace the existing organizations of the people. We only want to see those organizations strengthened and united so that they can secure the things the people need. It is our belief that the outlook of the Communist Party can develop the understanding and leadership needed to unite the ordinary people against the few who divide and exploit them. It is because other parties have failed to provide that understanding and leadership that millions of people all over the world have turned to Communism in the past two decades. Our Party is democratic in organization and outlook and our only concern is the welfare of the working people.

The aim of the Communist Party is a Socialist society in Britain and the world, because we believe that Socialism alone can solve finally the key problems of the 20th century—war and unemployment. Nevertheless, we recognize the great advances that are possible within the framework of capitalist democracy and regard the struggle for these advances as an essential preparation for the further advance to Socialism. Therefore, the Cambridge Communist Party will work wholeheartedly to achieve the progressive measures outlined in this booklet. We ask all those who agree with this policy to join us in our efforts to make it a reality.

**PEOPLE OF CAMBRIDGE!** We can transform this old town of ours. It needs new jobs, new homes. It needs new life and a new outlook. Above all it needs new people to take charge of its affairs. Let us celebrate this year of the great victory over Fascism by ending the apathy and disunity of the past. Come into the progressive movement; into the unions, the Co-operative Society, the Labour Party or any other organization which sincerely fights for the people. Best of all, come into the Communist Party, the most vigorous section of the progressive movement in Britain today. Let us all work together to obtain the good things of life that we have been denied too long. This is the only way to the new and better Cambridge of tomorrow.



# THE "DAILY WORKER" MAKES NEWSPAPER HISTORY

## *New Co-operative Society Formed*

We have great pleasure in announcing the launching of a Co-operative Society, to be known as the People's Press Printing Society, Limited, which will undertake the printing and publishing of the "Daily Worker."

Despite the difficulties of war-time publication, the "Daily Worker" has made huge strides in technique and organisation. As the result of the continued support of its readers—particularly those in the Labour Movement—the "Daily Worker" has acquired some of the most up-to-date machinery in the country. Its present circulation of 110,000—to which it is limited only by newspaper rationing—is less than a half of what could be sold to satisfy present demand. Never has its standing been so high.

Plans have now been completed for developing the "Daily Worker" into a front-rank national newspaper with a mass circulation when paper rationing and other war-time restrictions have been removed.

True to its democratic traditions, the "Daily Worker" is making Newspaper history by becoming the only daily newspaper in Britain which is truly owned by its readers. The formation of the People's Press Printing Society will enable every shareholder to have a voice in the affairs of the "Daily Worker."

*Write for more information to the Secretary,*

PEOPLE'S PRESS PRINTING SOCIETY, LTD.  
SWINTON HOUSE, 324, GRAY'S INN ROAD, LONDON, W.C.1

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## MRS. PEARL LILLEY

### Prospective Communist Candidate for Trumpington Ward

The Communist Party has adopted Mrs. Pearl Lilley as a prospective candidate for the Trumpington Ward in the Municipal Elections in November, 1945. Mrs. Lilley was born in Cambridge in 1915 and has lived in the Cambridge district most of her life. At the age of 15 she entered the employment of the Cambridge Co-operative Society. In those years she was an active member of various youth organizations, including the Labour League of Youth. She also played a leading part in founding the Branch of the Shop Assistants' Union in Cambridge. In 1934 she joined the Communist Party, and has been one of its most active members in Cambridge since that time. After 1939 Mrs. Lilley was elected to responsible positions in the district and national organization of the Communist Party. She was married in 1939 to Dr. S. Lilley, now a Fellow of St. John's College and well-known broadcaster on scientific topics.

During the war Mrs. Lilley has worked at Pye's radio works as a capstan lathe operator, until forced to retire in the spring of 1945 from ill-health. She served as a shop steward and as a member of the Committee of the Engineering Branch of the Transport and General Workers' Union. Her other war-time activities include the Chairmanship of the Cambridge Housewives Committee (1940-41) and membership of the Cambridge Anglo-Soviet



Committee (1941 to present). Her recent work on the housing question in conjunction with the Tenants' Committee in the New Town part of Trumpington Ward is well known in that district.

## Acknowledgments

We wish to thank all those members of the Communist Party who helped in the preparation of this booklet by collecting information and taking part in the discussions at which the policy was worked out. We also wish to thank the non-members of the Communist Party whom we approached with many problems, and whose suggestions and criticism has been most valuable.

We acknowledge gratefully a gift of photographs from Ramsey and Muspratt, four of which have been used in the booklet. We also have to thank the Eastern Press Agency for permission to include the VE Day crowd scene in our cover. The

remaining pictures were collected by two amateur photographers, to whom our special thanks are due.

There is not space to refer to all the published sources of information that have been consulted in the course of our work. However, two works have been invaluable:—

1. *A Scientific Survey of the Cambridge District.* 1938. British Association for the Advancement of Science.
2. *The Land of Britain. The Report of the Land Utilization Survey of Britain.* Part 74. Cambridgeshire. 1941. By G. H. N. Pettit.

We should mention also our debt to the *Cambridge Daily News* for the local news service which enables ordinary citizens to keep up-to-date on local affairs.

DON ROSS,  
*Editor.*

We hope this booklet has aroused your interest in the work of the Communist Party. If you wish to join our Party or want more information about it, detach the coupon opposite and post to Mrs. Jean Pavett, Secretary, Cambridge Communist Party, 1, Bene't Street, Cambridge, striking out the words which do not apply.

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